stories are journalistic gems. . . . Listen, if you swear to keep this secret from other legations I will make you a special price. . . . For only one hundred thousand francs a month I'll give you five Paris newspapers of your choice. You will have no worries. Just put each note with four carbons into the mailbox—with my name—and tomorrow you get them all printed."

I finally convinced the rotund gentleman that the Georgian legation had no funds for the press. He expressed his sympathy for my predicament, and his friendly manner did not change. "I shall see what I can do for you," he said. "Keep on sending your releases to me. Perhaps I shall be able to use them from time to time, but give me your word of honor you won't tell anybody your notes have been printed free. That would demoralize the market."

THE FALL OF GEORGIA

The efforts of the Communists to infiltrate Georgia and incite trouble among the workers and peasants had failed. The prestige of the government remained as high as ever. But the international difficulties confronting Georgia were increasing. After the withdrawal of the British from Tiflis, the Communists launched an offensive. In November, 1920, the Soviet troops occupied Baku. The Tartar government was overthrown, and a Soviet republic was established in Azerbeidjan. The Kremlin sent assurances of goodwill and friendship to the capitals of the two remaining Transcaucasian republics, Erivan and Tiflis, but six weeks later the Russian armies invaded Armenia. This time military operations were combined with fifth-column work and diligently prepared riots. The conquest was disguised as a revolt of the masses of the people against their government.

Georgia was now encircled on all sides by Communist forces. Its only hope lay in the Great Powers. The latter were only moderately interested in this issue but, since Georgia was a modest pawn on the chessboard of European politics, the Supreme Allied Council decided to make a noble gesture by recognizing her as an independent nation *de jure*.

Tiflis was jubilant. At the official celebration on February 4, the representatives of the Soviet government were among the guests of the President of the Republic. A few days later, however, Russian troops crossed Georgia's borders from Armenia and Azerbeidjan, through the passes of the Caucasian range and along the Black Sea coast. On February 23, the Turks appeared around Batum. By the end of February the Russian forces were in sight of Tiflis. The capital was evacuated and the Georgian army retreated toward the Black